



HILLINGDON  
LONDON

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON**

**Statutory Notice**

**Satellite site of Meadow High School and change in number of pupils  
Royal Lane, Hillingdon, Middlesex, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3QU  
URN: 102462**

**Part 1: Prescribed Alteration to Meadow High School (Maintained)**

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Hillingdon is proposing a satellite site of Meadow High School at the the Harefield Boarding Block and subsequent change in number of pupils. The prescribed alterations will provide:

- The addition of a satellite site at Northwood Way, Harefield, Uxbridge, UB9 6ET
- 98 additional places for pupils on roll at Meadow High School

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal, copies of which may be obtained from School Place Planning Team, Hillingdon Council, Civic Centre, 4E/01, High Street Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

Email: [education@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:education@hillingdon.gov.uk).

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal via School Place Planning Team, Hillingdon Council, Civic Centre, 4E/01, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

Email: [education@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:education@hillingdon.gov.uk).

Responses must be received by 17th June 2022 at 5pm.

**Signed: VIKRAM HANSRANI**

Date: 18th May 2022



## **Detailed Proposal Document**

### **School and LA details**

Meadow High School is a community maintained special school in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

### **Description of alteration and evidence of demand**

Meadow High School is the only Council maintained Secondary Special school, as well as the only Secondary Special for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties and Autism (MLD and ASD). It has continuously expanded over the past few years, with the January 2022 census roll being 256 pupils. This is now by far the largest special school, around 30% of all pupils in special schools in the borough. The school partially relies on four old double modular units which had previously been used on other sites which were intended for temporary use. They are unsuitable for use by pupils with limited mobility and are deteriorating, so need to be replaced one at a time over the next four years, which would reduce the total capacity at the school by 82 by 2026 in line with the EFSA survey recommendations. However, the Local Authority needs more places in the school to meet rising demand and reduce the use of independent placements, which are far more expensive per pupil and will increase the deficit on the High Needs Block.

Notice is given in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that the London Borough of Hillingdon is proposing a satellite site of Meadow High School at the Harefield Academy Boarding Block and subsequent change in number of pupils. The prescribed alterations will provide:

- The addition of a satellite site at the Harefield Academy Boarding Block, Northwood Way, Harefield, Uxbridge, UB9 6ET
- 98 additional places for pupils on roll at Meadow High School

The proposed new satellite of Meadow High School will use the Boarding Block and adjacent external area at the edge of the site, away from the academy building and sports areas and will use a separate entrance from Northwood Road. The LA is the freeholder of the whole site for the purposes of education and there will be a varying of the lease for this area to be used by Meadow High School.

### **Need for places**

Meadow High School is a Special school for secondary aged pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Complex needs, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) linked to MLD. The school currently has 256 pupils on roll making it the largest Special school in the borough. Meadow High School and Hedgewood School (primary MLD school) are the only maintained schools in the borough with all other SEN schools being Academies.

Approximately 60% of the existing buildings at Meadow High School are currently being rebuilt under a Priority School Building Programme phase 2 (PSBP2) by the DfE to upgrade facilities for pupils to meet the required standards and add a dining hall. No extra places are being provided as part of the PSBP2 works.

The school roll has grown rapidly since 2016 and the school has 82 pupils in the 4 temporary double modular classrooms on site that accommodate the extra pupils. As part of the PSBP2 works the DfE did not agree to replace these modular classroom units as they deem them as temporary provision. There is no other space for building on the main Meadow site.

Due to the poor condition of the modular classroom units the school and the Council agreed that one double modular unit will be removed each year at a time from the end of 2022 as they are coming to the end of their serviceable life. This will lead to around 20 place reduction a year, seriously reducing or pausing accepting new pupils. However, the demand for the school continues to increase, and alternative places out of the borough are expensive. As part of the Devolved School Grant (DSG) Safety Valve plan being negotiated with DfE to increase SEN places within schools in the borough including Meadow High School it is essential to reduce the Council reliance on out of borough placements.

The proposed satellite site will provide a net gain of 98 places works across both sites, Harefield Boarding Block (*up to 90 additional places*) and the Meadow High School (*up to 90 minus 82 equalling 8 additional places*). The works at Harefield will need to progress first and once completed up to 90 pupils will relocate to this site from Meadow High School. This will free up the places to allow for the modular units to be demolished at Meadow High and the new replacement permanent block to be constructed. The overall capacity across both sites will be 354 places (*256 plus 8 at Meadow High and 90 places at Harefield*).

### **Objectives, e.g. how the change would increase standards of education or increase parental choice**

As a local Special School with longstanding Ofsted Good rating, Meadow High school is well placed to expand onto a satellite site to continue to provide a high quality provision for pupils with MLD and ASD in Hillingdon. Both the Head and Deputy Head have significant experience of specialist MLD and ASD. To maximise this experience, as well as the school's significant experience, it is the intention to move current Pathway 1 staff to the Northwood Road site and to recruit new staff as the pupil numbers gradually increase. Any pupil who currently receives Home / School transport will not be disadvantaged by the change of location. Pupils who are currently attend the Royal Lane site and are not eligible for Home - School transport will be reassessed to see if they have now become eligible.

Subject to an assessment of their needs via Annual Review and consultation with parents, children and young people from the main school site may be placed at the new provision to better suit their needs. The admissions arrangements, governance, budget, policies will be the same across both sites.

Opening a satellite provision of this kind will positively impact outcomes for this cohort of children. It would offer parents the opportunity to send their children to high-quality local provision, instead of out of the area. We anticipate that this will have the following additional benefits to families and the local authority:

- Bespoke provision
- More Pathway 1 pupils in year groups 7 – 14, but a smaller provision overall (max 90 compared to current 260)
- More flexible classroom design
- Additional facilities e.g dedicated food tech room / horticulture garden / fitness room and outdoor gym / large therapy spaces / sensory room

- Pathway 1 focused outdoor spaces, fully accessible
- Access to other courses based at Royal Lane
- Whole school events
- A greater number of children will be educated within their local area and will not lose community links by being placed a significant distance away from their homes.
- Multi-agency working and communication will be easier / better for these children and their families if they remain in a local placement and are able to access local services
- The quality of education will be more closely monitored for this particularly vulnerable cohort of children and the resource will be able to access Local Authority.
- Placement cost, including transport, will be less than the cost of independent/non-maintained placements.

### **Admission and curriculum arrangements**

The admission arrangements will be the same as currently for Meadow High School - the LA make the decision to place pupils at the school. The LA consults with the school who confirm whether they can meet each pupil's need and whether they have capacity.

There will generally be no movement of pupils between sites. However, where there are some Pathway 1 pupils who currently integrate into Pathway 2 lessons, this will be facilitated. Pathway 2/3 pupils may travel to the Northwood Road site for work experience, but this would be for a complete day. For whole school events, staff and pupils will come together at the appropriate site.

### **Governance, staffing and administration**

The Headteacher has led informal consultation with staff and parents on the proposed satellite site as it will lead to changes in working for all staff and the outcome has shaped the final proposal.

Most of the administrative support will remain at Royal Lane (Finance / HR / attendance) with two reception-admin staff based full time at Northwood Road. They will have additional functions e.g First Aid / consultation support / library etc.

All contracts will have the facility for staff to be deployed at either site. The working reality will be that apart from a few staff (Headteacher / Welfare Lead / Safeguarding Lead / Therapists / Office manager) the majority of staff will be allocated to one site or the other. In the event that the school cannot recruit to or temporarily fill a staffing gap on either site, they would consider temporarily redeploying staff.

The Governing Body will oversee all pupil and staff on both sites, with one Governor being allocated in a special interest capacity to each site. The Senior Leadership Team continues with a slightly expanded team at the Northwood Road site to ensure sufficient capacity on days when the Headteacher is at Royal Lane.

### **Physical characteristics of the school**

It is intended that the two sites will be largely self-contained and both will have the required facilities so that no group is disadvantaged by regular / lengthy travel to access facilities. However, facilities on each site will be used for special events etc should that be desired. This has been planned to maximise staff time (by avoiding journey time) and learning time (by avoiding pupils making journeys between the two sites). Should we need the use of a closer

playing field, we have the ability to arrange this with the Harefield Academy, but it is not anticipated that this will happen with any regularity.

The school community comes from the whole of Hillingdon and beyond. Many current Pathway 1 pupils live in the south of the borough and the site proposed is situated in the north of Hillingdon. As the vast majority of these pupils are entitled to home-school transport, this would continue to be the case, the minibus routes will be quite reasonable times, especially once HS2 works move from Harefield. The school and the LA have considered options to help families who do not drive, when they need to collect an unwell child from the new location.

### **Effect on other institutions**

Currently, learners from this cohort who are placed out of area in independent or non-maintained provision incur a significant cost to the London Borough of Hillingdon's high needs block. This funding provides for the needs of all young people with SEND. These out of area placements are placing unsustainable pressure on the high needs block which will negatively impact other services.

It is not anticipated that this development will have a detrimental effect on any other local special provision as there is a significant shortage of provision in the area for children Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The impact on pupils at the Harefield Academy will be minimal as the proposed new satellite is at the edge of the site, away from the academy building and sports areas and will use a separate entrance from Northwood Road. The building and classrooms will enable it to be self-sufficient, buying in meals from Harefield to eat in their own hall. Due to the pupils high level of needs, they will be within their building and external areas and supervised by staff at all times. The optimum arrangements for the pupils' minibus arrival, drop off and pick up has been discussed with the previous Principal and other staff at the Academy, to minimise disruption to their pupils. It is aimed to agree structured liaison between the pupils and staff of the two schools for mutual benefit.

### **Project costs, how these will be met, and long-term value for money**

The cost of any building works will be met via an allocated budget from the council's Capital Programme and from the High Needs Capital Allocation grant from the DfE. As building and set up costs are based around refurbishment of an existing site, they offer a significant saving over the cost of building an equivalent provision from new.

### **Implementation plan**

Pending the outcome of this consultation, building work will commence on the site in line with project planning being led by the Capital Programme team at the London Borough of Hillingdon. Parallel to this, separate planning for staff recruitment, curriculum, finance and admissions will be undertaken with wider stakeholders.

An indicative programme plan for the scheme is set out below. No work can start at Meadow High School site until pupils have moved out and the new school facility at the Harefield Boarding Block site is operational.

<b><u>Harefield Boarding Block adaptation and extension</u></b>	
Pre-Construction (design, planning, contractor procurement)	Jan 2022 – Aug 2022
Construction	Sep 2022 – Aug 2023
Relocating pupils for Meadow High to Harefield	Aug 2023
School operational	Sep 2023
<b><u>Meadow High School new classroom block</u></b>	
Pre-Construction (design, planning, contractor procurement)	Aug 2022 – Aug 2023
Construction	Sep 2023 – Aug 2024
New classroom block operational	Sep 2024

### **Procedure for making responses**

Anyone wishing to respond to this proposal can do so by visiting the consultation page [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/consultation) and completing the questionnaire or by emailing [education@hillingsdon.gov.uk](mailto:education@hillingsdon.gov.uk).

You can also send in your comments to: School Place Planning Team, Hillingdon Council, Civic Centre, 4E/01, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

Responses must be received by 17th June 2022 at 5pm.



**Please see these frequently asked questions regarding the relocation of Pathway 1 pupils to another site of Meadow High School, Northwood Road, Harefield.**

**Q: Why is the Northwood Road site being added to the school?**

A: Meadow is a popular school and each year we have more pupils wanting to come to the school than we can take. The second site will allow more children to benefit from attending Meadow High School.

**Q: Why have Pathway 1 pupils been chosen to move rather than any other group?**

A: There were two groups that were initially identified as possibilities: Pathway 1 and 6th Form. However, the 6th Form group includes many pupils who travel to school independently using public transport. This would have severely disadvantaged them should they have been moved to Northwood Road.

**Q: Does this mean that children in Pathway 1 will never be independent travellers?**

A: No, absolutely not. We will continue to develop pupils skills and will work with families to get their child to the best level of independent travel they are capable of. *However*, the current cohort of Pathway 1 pupils does not include anyone who travels fully independently to and from school.

**Q: Is moving this cohort of pupils disability discrimination?**

A: No. Careful consideration was given to which cohort of pupils it was most appropriate to move to this site.

**Q: Where is the Northwood Road site?**

A: The Northwood Road site is in Harefield and is next to, but not part of, Harefield Academy.

**Q: I don't drive, how can I get there?**

A: The 331 bus serves the Northwood Road site and this connects directly to Ruislip, Northwood and Uxbridge.

**Q: Why can't you make two mixed schools on both sites e.g. pupils from all Pathways?**

A: Due to the way our timetable is constructed for Pathway 2 and 3 pupils, this would have meant that subject specialist staff would be required to move between the sites. This was not economically viable.

**Q: Will my child still get transport to school?**

A: Yes, should you still want it. We are currently confirming whether this is for a fixed period or the remainder of your child's education at Meadow High School.

**Q: We live very near to Royal Lane and my child doesn't like going on school transport?**

A: We would work with your child to overcome this. We have supported many pupils in the past to adapt to travelling on home to school transport.

**Q: How will you make sure the Therapists are shared appropriately between the two sites?**

A: The allocation of Therapy and Rehab Assistant time is based on the requirements of the pupils EHCP. To reduce the impact of travel time between sites, we are currently exploring whether we can have a site specific Therapy Team.

**Q: Are the staff moving with the children?**

A: Yes, that is the intention. However, until we have completed the formal staff consultation, we cannot confirm if all Pathway 1 staff will be making this move. During our informal process, we believe that the vast majority of Pathway 1 staff do intend to move across to the new site.

**Q: What happens if I say no and don't want my child to relocate to the Northwood Road site?**

A: Your child has been placed at Meadow High School because the school can meet the needs outlined in your child's EHCP. This would not change due to the location of your child's education so the Local Authority would take the view that the placement would remain appropriate.

**Q: Will we have an opportunity to see the building design?**

A: Yes. The work to finalise the building design is approaching a final stage. Representatives from the school have been involved at all stages. Once there is a final design, this will be shared with all stakeholders.

**Q: Will we have an opportunity to visit the site before my child starts attending there?**

A: No. It is unlikely that we will be able to have safe access until after completion of the works. We will welcome parents to tour and view the facilities once we are able but this is likely to be after handover. Updates to how the works are progressing will be shared with families throughout the process. Should we be able to facilitate a site visit, we will of course invite families.

**Q: Is the site secure and separate from Harefield Academy?**

A: Yes. This is a separate site with its own boundary fencing. There will be no mixing of the schools populations unless planned.

**Q: Will my child's curriculum stay the same?**

A: Yes. The approaches and techniques will be the same. There may be some changes over time however due to new facilities on offer at the new site offering opportunities to enrich the existing curriculum further, e.g. horticulture, increased access to Food Technology and more bespoke play/sports equipment.

**Q: Will the facilities be as good as at the current school?**

A: Yes. As a minimum they will be the same but due to the bespoke design of the building and the tailoring to the Pathway 1 population there will be areas that are greatly improved.

**Q: Will my child's school uniform stay the same?**

A: Yes, your child will still attend Meadow High School so the uniform, Bulletin and all other services will be the same.

**Q: How will you support my child to prepare them for this move?**

A: Your child will be supported as needed on an individual basis. All the students will have access to social stories and information sessions to help prepare them.

**Q: Is it worth my child transferring to Northwood Road if they only have one or two years left at Meadow?**

A: Yes. If you are concerned about additional transitions for your child please consider that this is a transition with familiar people and pupils. It will be good practice for your child prior to them making a transition to a new provision with unfamiliar people. Additionally, pupils have been supported to make a successful transition to this new building on the Royal Lane site. We don't anticipate the move to Northwood Road presenting any greater difficulties.

**Q: Will Teddy the dog be moving to Northwood Road?**

A: Teddy tends to follow Miss Willis wherever she goes! Once the staff consultation is complete it is anticipated we will know for sure which staff are moving to the Northwood Road school.

## Appendix 4 - Consultation Responses

### Responses received via the questionnaire:

The Local Authority (LA) and Meadow High School have responded to comments made within the questionnaire as shown. As some comments have been repeated these have been left blank.

1. **18** respondents stated that they had children under the age of 18 living in their household. Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide information on their interest in the proposals.
    - A pupil - 0
    - A parent/carer/guardian - 11
    - A staff member – 2
    - A local resident - 2
    - Other – 6
    - Prefer not to say - 1
  
  2. Respondents were invited to state which school(s) their child(ren) currently attend and the responses were as follows:
    - Charville Academy
    - Bishophalt
    - Coteford Junior School, St Bernard Catholic Grammar School & St Clement Danes
    - Hayes Park Primary School
    - Mainstream School with a SRP
    - Meadow High School x 3
    - Below School Age
    - No Longer at School
    - Pinner Park
    - Swakeleys School for Girls and Meadow High School
  
  3. **12** respondents agreed with the proposed satellite site for Meadow High School at the Harefield Boarding Block:
    - Yes - 12
    - No - 10
    - Don't know – 0
  
  4. Of the 9 respondents that answered 'No' or 'Don't know', the following reasons were provided:
    - “I believe that if they want to make the school bigger they should let new children join but not take children already settled in their surroundings to be placed next to able children to be more at risk from verbal discrimination and isolation”
-

**LA/ School Response:** Unfortunately this is unviable as this this does not work with the staffing structure of Meadow High School and also will prevent the removal of the temporary classrooms that the DFE have informed us are not fit for purpose for much longer.

- “Moving special needs children that are already settled in their school across the borough is unfair.”

**LA/ School Response:** Pupils will be fully supported to make the transition. Familiar teaching and support staff will follow pupils to the new site and so this should not pose any problems for pupils and their access to the same staff.

- “I do not agree with the proposed use for any Satellite site as I believe it is inappropriate to segregate Pathway 1 children from the rest of their peer group in Pathways 2 & 3 and also from all other year group children of mixed ages & abilities (Pathways 2&3) as this is not conducive to either their social or mental well-being. Pathway 1 children must not be segregated/ isolated simply because of their educational learning difficulties, they need social interaction with children of all abilities and the current proposal demonstrates prejudice not Inclusiveness. If a 2nd school site is required an alternative use for it should be considered - maybe as a 6th Form College for special educational need pupils, or an additional school for local SEN pupils to that area and/ or pupils outside the Borough.”

**LA/ School Response:** Pupils are not being ‘segregated’ due to their educational difficulties. It was not feasible to take pupils from all Pathways as this would have required staff to move backwards and forward across the two sites, necessitating a number of additional staff. This would result in time lost in transit.

- “The proposal is to move pathway 1 children only thus creating a new school not a satellite. It also reduces the social and educational mix of children meaning that pathway 1 children only have pathway 1 children to mix with. You have said that pathway 2 and 3 children can’t go there because of difficulties travelling independently and that pathway 1 children will not travel independently. You are limiting their potential or even the possibility of independent travel. You are discriminating against pathway 1 children based on their disability.”

**LA/ School Response:** We are not saying that pathway 1 pupils will not and cannot learn to travel independently. There are several children who are in stages of independent travel training and there is no reason that this cannot continue. Travel training and community safety has always been and will continue to be an integral part of the Pathway 1 curriculum. It is true that pupils (apart from those who live geographically close or have no transfers to make) are unlikely to make the journey to Northwood Road independently.

- “Harefield Boarding block is in an isolated semi-rural location with limited public transport links. It has been decided by the school and governing body that the lowest ability and in turn the most vulnerable pupils of Meadow High School will be relocating to a new site at Northwood Road, many of which currently live in the South of the borough. Not only is this unacceptable in terms of segregation and discrimination but is regressing some thirty years whereby these children, especially those with a diagnosis of Down Syndrome were institutionalised and kept away from society. It will also result in majority of pupils having to access school transport for them to get to and from school. The increased travel time
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will cause greater pressure on their medical conditions, result in them arriving at school tired, thus resulting in poor concentration and lack of learning.”

**LA/ School Response:** It is incorrect that Pathway 1 pupils are the most vulnerable. They are an extremely vulnerable group but because they require far more adult support and supervision they are rarely exposed to situations where this vulnerability can be exploited. Our Pathway 2 and 3 pupils, particularly those who are neurodivergent, independent travellers with no visible disability are the most vulnerable group as they are moving about society and navigating a range of challenging situations. This is the breakdown of how Pathway 1 pupils currently journey to school:

- Current pupil number: 63
- On Hillingdon Transport: 43
- Semi-independent: 1
- Parent transported to gate/door: 19 pupils. Some are not eligible for transport through proximity, and some have opted to take a transport budget in lieu of transport.

Meadow High School already support pupils who have significant journeys to school which includes a free breakfast and a soft start to the day. Some of these pupils have acute medical conditions that require regular support from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

- “The satellite site is limiting childrens' progress and placing low expectations on Pathway 1 children. It is narrowing social inclusion for this cohort of children. Full details of my opposal have been submitted by email to [education@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:education@hillingdon.gov.uk) on 6/6/22”

**LA/ School Response:** The expectations of the school will not change. Meadow High School aspire for all of their young people to attain the highest level of independence. Please see a link to Pathways to Success and Life beyond Meadow document for reference.

<https://www.meadowhighschool.org/page/?title=Pathways+to+Success+and+Life+After+Meadow&pid=824>

- “I don’t like the idea of my child being segregated from all the friends she has made at this school”

**LA/ School Response:** Part of the transition work carried out by Meadow High School will be to identify if pupils have particular friendships across the Pathways. The school are currently discussing how they will facilitate these relationships if this is the case.

- “Pupils should not have to be sent to somewhere that does not have easy travel access to and from in case of an emergency. Why would or should they be singled out, it’s taking the education of these children back to 20 years ago”

**LA/ School Response:** In an emergency the school would call emergency services as they currently do. If a non-emergency but the child is ill, the school would expect parents with transport to pick up their child. For those without transport, the school would expect the majority to make their way to the school but we would facilitate transport home for them and their child.

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- 1) Disability Discrimination

The cohort chosen to move to Northwood Road has been selected based on the severity of their learning disability. The cohort is referred to as “Pathway 1”. Pathway 1 comprises the children in school with the greatest social challenges and learning disability, those least able to cope with change. The cohort to be moved to Northwood Road will suffer disadvantage through the disturbance of having to move sites, generally increased transport times and generally impaired access to school for parents and carers. Other, non discriminatory, criteria could be used to determine which children are educated at Northwood Road. Selecting children based on their disability is not proportionate. On this basis, the Proposal appears to be discriminatory under the Equality Act 2010.

**LA/ School Response:** We do not believe this to be the case.

- 2) This is Really a New School

While proposed as a “satellite” site, what we are seeing is the proposal for a new school. This is clear in so far as:  
admission criteria for the two sites will be different  
pupils will rarely move between sites  
all but the most senior staff will be dedicated to a single site  
facilities will not be shared between the two sites  
the two sites are significantly geographically separate  
While remaining a Community school, Meadow High School would very much mimic the attributes of a multi-academy trust.

**LA/ School Response:** Admission criteria and process to Meadow High School will not change. The school receive consultations and respond by confirming if they can meet the need of the pupil or not and which Pathway we would place the child in. At phase transfer, the LBH SEND team then select pupils from this group and name Meadow High School. For in year consultations, the school additionally state whether there is a space in the appropriate cohort / Pathway / class or not.

- 5. **15** respondents agreed with the proposed 98 additional places for pupils on roll at Meadow High School:

- Yes - 15
- No- 5
- Don't know - 2

- 6. Of the 7 respondents that answered 'No' or 'Don't know', the following reasons were provided:

- “If they want more children at the school they should be the ones using the new block not the most vulnerable children to be uprooted to provide these places”
  - “You are moving children already settled in the school to make room for other children.”
  - “What is really needed is another complete meadow school over the other side of the borough then children would be able to go to their nearest school. It needs to be sited where it would have good transport links with the areas in the borough from which it
-

will take its children. Having two schools in opposite sides of the borough may then have a hidden cost positive effect by reducing travel costs. The borough needs to look at all its special needs provision and provide enough spaces for all its SEN children to attend school in the borough without the need to go to expensive out of borough provisions.”

**LA/ School Response:** The Council is reviewing all SEND provision across the borough. This project will ensure that there is adequate SEND provision for those young people in a special secondary school.

- “Not at the expense of the current pupils, if the current setting cannot accommodate additional pupils, the existing pupils should not be punished by moving them to the other side of the borough, causing upheaval and unsettlement to make way for more pupils. The current pupils should be able to stay in their setting for the duration of their education, a choice that parents made when placing them at Royal Lane Hillingdon.”
- “Because my child is having to move and be inconvenienced to make way for children that have even attended the school yet.”
- “I have no objection to the current Meadows school being increased in size and numbers, but not at the expense of the Pathway 1 children. The school should be increased as necessary to accommodate children of mixed abilities as current - Pathways 1-3.”
- “I would say yes if there was to be no satellite site and all the extra places were to be at the current Royal Lane site. Why on earth was the school not expanded greatly during the current building project on the Royal Lane site?”

**LA/ School Response** This was suggested several times during the planning stages but was not taken up as an option. However, without a significantly bigger project than our current one, the site would not have sufficient outdoor / social / play / sport space to accommodate all the pupils. (FYI This could only have been achieved by building one single school block at the back of the site, thereby amalgamating all the current buildings. we have a 1996 building, a 2012 6th form building, the 2021 main block and various temporary structures which is planned to replace with a consolidated block in 2023/2024)

7. 10 respondents agreed these proposed changes will disadvantage any residents in Hillingdon?

- Yes - 10
- No- 12
- Don't know – 0

8. Of the 10 respondents that answered 'Yes', the following reasons were provided:

- “Yes because more funding would be needed from local government to pay for transport for children being sent to (Coventry ) Harefield as most of the ones being sent are being taken by to school by the parents but moving so far away to where they placed their children will have trouble getting to harefield school”
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**LA/ School Response** There may be more pupils who require access to home-to-school transport.

- “It will cost more money to transport these children to the new site when these children are mostly taken to school by parents/ guardians but now won’t be able to do so as it is across the borough.”
- “I believe that local (Hillingdon) Pathway 1 children are to be relocated to the Harefield site for the ease and convenience of sorting out the issue of pupil increase, which in itself is not the best reason, and will cause segregation from their peer group and other aged children of mixed abilities (Pathways 2&3) throughout the rest of their education therefore disadvantaging them in their social skills and mental well-being.”
- “It will disadvantage pathway 1 children and their families. It will also disadvantage pathway 2/3 children as they will have a narrower mix of children to socialise with.”
- “Meadow High School is currently the only maintained SEN secondary school in the London Borough of Hillingdon that accommodates moderate learning difficulties. The remaining SEN secondary facilities within the London Borough of Hillingdon accommodate moderate to severe learning difficulties, some only accepting pupils with an ASD diagnosis. An application for our child to attend this facility was made knowing that it is the only SEN secondary school to cater for moderate learning difficulties and the inclusion policy as published on the school website. As parents, we felt it was the most inclusive, mixed ability school with peer groups from different pathways to interact with, thus developing a greater understanding of social skills to in turn allow them to be integrated into life in society after their education. If we had wanted our child to attend a setting for moderate need with no interaction with children with higher cognitive and/or social ability then we could have applied for another setting. By creating the proposed satellite site at Northwood Road, the choice to choose what we feel is in our child’s best interest from both an education and health perspective is now potentially being taken away from us, thus also taking this choice away for future pupils and parents in the Hillingdon Borough. Segregation is not the answer, inclusion is.”

**LA/ School Response** There will be further clarity on the curriculum offer prior to and once the new site is operational. We hope that once pupils are settled and happy, parents will see that this is not detrimental to their child.

- “The proposal will cause disadvantage to residents who are parents of children that live south of the borough.”

**LA/ School Response** As we know, the geography of Hillingdon is unique and large. The Local Authority are aware of the pressure and demands for places and continue to review the need for additional provision that could more locally serve the Hillingdon SEND population.

- “Because we will have to travel to harefield twice daily which is a total inconvenience”

**LA/ School Response** The school would support parents and families with travel arrangements.

- “travel for pupils will make it a long day for them and access to the Harefield site is not easy”
  - “Pupils, parents and carers of many children relocated will suffer impaired access to the Northwood Road site in comparison to their current access to the Royal Lane site.”
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- “If you have or in future have a Pathway 1 child currently at Meadow High School.”

9. 12 respondents confirmed that they had attended one of the Family Information presentations regarding the Meadow High School development plans:

- Yes - 12
- No - 10

10. Respondents were also asked to provide any comments on the proposal:

- “There is lot of problem for spaces for children with Autism in Special Schools that provide the right environment”
- “I strongly endorse this proposal. It will create sorely needed school places for children with SEND , utilise an underused school building, and be overseen by a specialist school provision with a great track record”
- “I think it’s a great plan/solution and exactly what is needed. There are not enough school places for secondary children with additional needs.”
- “Hillingdon needs more SEN school places. A whole new school I feel would be preferable. 98 places is better than nothing though. So many Hillingdon children are having to go to school out of borough and this puts them at a disadvantage due to travelling and adds to the length of time for their school day. This impacts on their learning due to tiredness.”
- “The Borough needs a more comprehensive SEN offer there are too few specialist schools and resource centres in the borough. To often alit if money is being spent sending children to expensive private specialist schools.”
- “I would like to know when the same investments will be inputted to increase the size of the Hedgewood School site and increase the facilities that they can offer our complex children. As a parent struggling to gain a place at a Primary level, why is the investment not being made into Primary SEN provision?”
- “Think the proposal has discrimination against the more disabled children who are more vulnerable and need more help with change and more needs that will disrupt there lives which they are the pupils need more security and as little change as possible. NOT RIGHT to move these young most vulnerable children to place them next to able children to be segregated from them or be victims from these pupils”

**LA/ School Response** Some parents have expressed their concern that pupils at Harefield Academy will target, bully and victimise Meadow High School pupils. While we do not believe this to be the case, the school will ensure it isn’t by working closely with the academy to ensure that they build good relationships, strong links and become good neighbours and friends. Although the site will be free standing alongside Harefield Academy and not incorporated within it, the satellite provision will be of benefit the entire community on the site.

- “I feel for my child this is not the best move for her. you are moving her across the borough next to a mainstream high school where she is more likely to be discriminated against. making her extremely vulnerable. I feel that i sent her to her school now due to its close proximity to myself and the local hospital due to her health issues. My
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daughter needs stability in her life not more upheaval as she does not like change. I feel as a parent we should of been told of this proposal and been given a choice as this could of impacted where I then chose as a secondary school to send her. I could of chose differently so as not to have all the upset and upheaval. Also what happens if one of our children doesn't make the transport or doesn't want to go on the transport we then have to drive across the borough to get them to school where as now it's not as far. It is a real shame as my daughter is extremely happy at her school now but I feel like I need to look at other options that aren't as far as this new site will be which will now be more upheaval/upset for her but I feel I have no choice."

**LA/ School Response** We understand, particularly for families whose child has only just started at the school that they feel they should have been informed sooner. Once this project was agreed and was progressing, Meadow High School immediately started information sessions with families.

- "As per my answer in question 2, as a grandparent of a child currently at Meadows school who is a Pathway 1 child, I have grave concerns about the proposal to move such children to a separate "Satellite" school in Harefield thus segregating them from the other children in their year group and also from all other pupils in the school in Pathways 2&3. Children in Pathway 1 may have greater educational learning difficulties, but their need for social interaction with other pupils of mixed educational abilities is equal or more necessary to facilitate their social skills and mental well being and preparing them for life outside the school room. Confining them to mix only with pupils with the most needs is not in their best interests as they need to mix with others of all abilities and personalities to enable them to fit in and be accepted in the real world. Confining them to a specific group throughout their education will not enable this need. I firmly believe that Pathway 1 children already at Meadows should not have enforced relocation to the proposed Satellite school at Harefield as, like my own daughter, I'm sure a great deal of thought and investigation was done by the parents before deciding on Meadows as their school of choice. Parents of these children should therefore be giving the option of whether they wish their child to move to Harefield or not, and those that do not should be accommodated at Hillingdon and appropriate plans put in place to allow this to continue until the end of their education. It is not acceptable to take the easy option of moving the most vulnerable who cannot fight for themselves on the pretext that the new school will be all "Bells & Whistles" for this group of children without considering the detrimental effect segregating, basically institutionalising them, will do. Children of all abilities need to be Included not Excluded. This would be a backward step to times of years past when such children were hidden away. Parents make their choices with their child's best interest at the heart of it all and should therefore be listened to and their requests heeded and acted upon to joint benefit. The easy option is not always the best option and One size does not generally Fit all. Alternate use for a second school site should be further explored eg. 6th Form pupils."
  - "The satellite site at Harefield is not a case of a school simply split across two sites, it will be a school split on ability and vulnerability. A stereotypical segregation that many of us parents hoped we would never be part of and never wanted our children to experience. Being parents of children with a disability is challenging from the moment they take their first breath. A child with Down Syndrome is exceptionally challenging as it is a lifelong condition diagnosed at birth, unlike many other hidden disabilities such as autism. We encounter criticism, discrimination and judgement from other
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parents, professionals and members of society who are ignorant and do not understand our children's need. By attending their current setting, we know in our hearts that we are providing them with the best opportunity for them to go on to be accepted into society and lead an independent life to the best of their ability. Segregation is not the answer, inclusion is. The proposal is unacceptable."

- "Full comments on the proposal have been submitted by email to [education@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:education@hillingdon.gov.uk) on 6/6/22."
- "My child has been a meadow high for 5 years and she has to be upheaved and unsettled for other children who have never attended the school it's just not good enough"
- "Has this really been thought through and the long term affect this will have on these pupils long term, people have fought so long for the education and facilities that they currently have, why would you then (name something that has worked ,if it's not broken, don't change it, listen to the parents of these children."
- "1. Looking at the planning application, the Northwood Road site will have few items of wheelchair accessible outdoor equipment. The proposed play area just has the usual 'token' wheelchair roundabout. That is just one piece of wheelchair accessible equipment that will be provided out of 10 for the play area. Any wheelchair bound pupil will get very bored at playtime watching all their able-bodied classmates use all the other equipment. What about also adding a wheelchair swing and interactive play equipment which wheelchair users can reach? 2. The outdoor gym equipment looks totally unsuitable if you are a wheelchair user with limited arm ability i.e. cannot lift your arms. 3. There is no school field. 4. There will not be enough parking spaces for both staff and visitors. Only 22 parking spaces for 45 full-time equivalent staff will be provided. This is parking for a location on the edge of the borough with not many transport links. There are only to be 3 disabled bays provided. Where will parents park to drop off/collect their child for appointments? If there is a school event, where will parents park? The parking for the site looks totally inadequate. 5. Slightly surprised to see that the cost of the project on the planning application form being 'between £2m and £100m'! A typo I presume. 6. Please upgrade ventilation to include HEPA filters so that ALL rooms in the school are more COVID-19 safe. HEPA filtration would also help to future proof for further pandemics. Pandemics of other zoonoses are expected to increase. The more protections there are in school to decrease the prevalence of pathogens the better. Not just for pupils who are clinically vulnerable and extremely clinically vulnerable but for other pupils and staff too.7. If the therapy staff are shared between sites, how often will children receive therapies such as physiotherapy? Currently physio is performed at school daily for our child."

**LA/ School Response** As shared in the information session with stakeholders, the first proposal from the design team simply had some outline pieces of playground equipment. There is a Northwood Road pupil working party who are selecting the equipment and resources they think will meet the needs of the pupil range. As a credit to them, they are paying particular attention to those who have more physical challenges and disabilities. We have already identified that we will not have sufficient car parking spaces (this is even more of a problem on the Royal Lane Site). Many of the school staff will have to park off site. The three disabled bays will be kept for disabled and visitor parking and will continue to review the arrangements. The point on the cost of the project of £2m to £100m is a typing error. We are happy to raise the point of the HEPA filters with the design team. Arrangements will be made to ensure that pupils continue to receive their

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therapeutic interventions. Most daily physio programs are delivered by Rehab assistants, and we anticipate that this would continue.

## **Responses received via email:**

### **Email 1:**

5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

### **Without prejudice**

### **Re: Proposal of a satellite site of Meadow High School at the Harefield Boarding Block and increase in number of places.**

We are writing with regards to the above proposal and have detailed our concerns and objections below.

- Meadow High School is currently the only maintained SEN secondary school in the London Borough of Hillingdon that accommodates moderate learning difficulties. The remaining SEN secondary facilities within the London Borough of Hillingdon accommodate moderate to severe learning difficulties, some only accepting pupils with an ASD diagnosis. An application for our child to attend this facility was made knowing that it is the only SEN secondary school to cater for moderate learning difficulties and the inclusion policy as published on the school website. As parents, we felt it was the most inclusive, mixed ability school with peer groups from different pathways to interact with, thus developing a greater understanding of social skills to in turn allow them to be integrated into life in society after their education. If we had wanted our child to attend a setting for moderate need with no interaction with children with higher cognitive and/or social ability then we could have applied for another setting. By creating the proposed satellite site at Northwood Road, the choice to choose what we feel is in our child's best interest from both an education and health perspective is now potentially being taken away from us.
  - The school and governing body have decided that the lowest ability and in turn the most vulnerable pupils of Meadow High School will be relocating to a new site at Northwood Road, Harefield from September 2023. This site is being portrayed as a bespoke facility for Pathway 1 pupils. As parents we feel that the lowest ability pupils are being segregated in the North of the borough, seven miles away from their current setting. Opening a satellite provision of this kind will not positively impact outcomes for this cohort of children. Meadow High Schools inclusion policy states "Making sure everyone can participate, whatever their background or circumstance". However, by relocating only Pathway 1 pupils to the Northwood Road site, the school are not ensuring everyone can participate; instead, we appear to be regressing some thirty years whereby these children, especially those with a diagnosis of Down Syndrome were institutionalised and kept away from society.
  - The proposal states that there will be more Pathway 1 pupils in year groups 7-14, but a smaller provision overall (max 90 compared to current 260). By reducing the number of pupils in the facility will significantly reduce their social interaction with other children, many of the
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children requiring social peers in order to progress with both their education and social abilities.

- The proposal also states there will be additional facilities e.g., dedicated food tech room, horticultural garden, fitness room and outdoor gym, large therapy spaces, sensory room. The only additional facility listed here is the sensory room, fitness room and outdoor gym. The children currently have the other facilities listed in their current setting. Only specific children within Pathway 1 will benefit from a sensory room. The provision of these two extra facilities does not make up for the fact of the loss of other facilities they currently access, such as after school clubs, enrichment afternoon on a Friday during which they interact with pupils from all Pathway and on-site Therapists.
  - Meadow High Schools ethos of Discrimination states – “To promote equality and good relations and not discriminate on any grounds. Take appropriate action in any case of actual or potential discrimination”. The school are in fact enforcing the opposite by removing the ability for the Pathway 1 pupils to develop equality and good relations with the pupils on Pathways 2 & 3, the higher ability pupils. To not discriminate on any grounds would be to continue with a fully inclusive setting, mixing low ability Pathway 1 and high ability Pathways 2 & 3 students.
  - Meadow High Schools ethos of Cohesion states – “People from different backgrounds getting on well together (good community relations). There is a shared vision and sense of purpose or belonging. Diversity is valued. Relationships are strong, supportive, and sustainable. Cohesion is an outcome of equality and inclusion”. There will no longer be a sense of purpose or belonging as Pathway 1 children will potentially experience discrimination from within their own school and could be viewed as the ‘silly kids’ from Northwood Road, who weren’t able enough to remain at the Royal Lane site. To say such opinions do not exist is unrealistic and many parents of children with learning difficulties have experienced behaviour like this since our children were born and by moving Pathway 1 children to Harefield is enforcing this division.
  - In addition to their development delay, our children have various medical needs and at their current location they are in very close proximity to their local hospital and GP surgeries. The Northwood Road site is in close proximity to both Harefield Hospital and Mount Vernon Hospital, neither of which have an Accident & Emergency Department. Harefield Hospital is a Cardiology hospital and Mount Vernon has no paediatric facility.
  - Most of the administrative support will remain at Royal Lane (Finance / HR / attendance) with two reception-admin staff based full time at Northwood Road. They will have additional functions e.g. First Aid / consultation support / library etc. At the Royal Lane site Pathway 1 pupils are situated on the ground floor giving them easier access to the medical room, so where is the rationale in relocating them to a semi-rural location with no access to a Welfare Person or hospital facilities. The school and the LA have considered options to help families who do not drive, when they need to collect an unwell child from the new location. If these children are unwell, they need the reassurance and support of their parents/guardians and will not want to travel whilst unwell with school staff or school transport personnel.
  - The children’s current hospital appointments are held at Hillingdon Hospital and it is not always possible to schedule these out of school hours. To be based at Northwood Road
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would increase their travel time to and from these hospital appointments, thus resulting in them losing more of their education time. It also puts added pressure on the parents who have to allow extra time for travelling, thus making some hospital appointments almost impossible due to work restrictions.

- Stated on the proposal on the London Borough of Hillingdon website is that a greater number of children will be educated within their local area and will not lose community links by being placed a significant distance away from their homes. Multi-agency working and communication will be easier/better for these children and their families if they remain in a local placement and are able to access local services. How were these statistics calculated? As per the above paragraph, many of the children will be much further away from home with the exception of children living furthest north of the borough and children that currently access Meadow High School from out of the borough.
  - Full details of the proposal on the London Brough of Hillingdon website states that 'The school community comes from the whole of Hillingdon and beyond. Many current Pathway 1 pupils live in the south of the borough and the site proposed is situated in the north of Hillingdon'. This contradicts the above statement that 'a greater number of children will be educated within their local area'.
  - The working reality will be that apart from a few staff (Headteacher / Welfare Lead / Safeguarding Lead / Therapists / Office manager) the majority of staff will be allocated to one site or the other. It is reiterated here that the most vulnerable pupils (Pathway 1) will also not have access to on site Therapists. Is there to be a consultation to ascertain the percentage of children that access the therapists currently across the Pathways?
  - It has been suggested during the informal consultations held by Meadow High School that if certain Pathway 1 pupils mix well with Pathways 2 and 3 then they will be brought over from Northwood Road for some activities. This will subject these children to extra travelling during their school day when they have already travelled a long distance to school in the morning. This can only have a further detrimental effect on their learning as they are losing further education time. Due to their medical conditions, this will result in them being tired, thus affecting their concentration. We have been advised that it would be for a specific lesson or activity and not for the complete school day as stated within your proposal.
  - The majority of the pupils would now have to access school transport for them to get to and from school. The increased travel time will cause greater pressure on their medical conditions and result in them arriving at school tired, thus resulting in poor concentration and lack of learning.
  - The Northwood Road site will be adjacent to Harefield Academy, separated by either a fence or brick wall boundary (subject to planning proposals). The full proposal online states 'the impact on pupils at the Harefield Academy will be minimal as the proposed new satellite is at the edge of the site, away from the academy building and sports areas and will use a separate entrance from Northwood Road'. This is false information as during the informal presentations we have been informed that there will be a wire fence separating the Harefield Academy tennis court area from the new Meadow High School site MUGA (Multi-use games area) and it is anticipated that the pupils from both schools will exchange positive communication/relationships. In our personal opinion and from information obtained first hand
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from some of the current students at Harefield Academy, it is known that Harefield Academy has a reputation of anti-social behaviour and bullying and is generally a hostile, volatile environment. We are fully aware that Harefield Academy has now obtained a Good Ofsted rating, however that does not change the 'make up' of pupils that attend the facility. We are being expected to place our children, the most vulnerable pupils from Meadow High School in close proximity to this environment. The proposal states that 'due to the pupil's high level of needs, they will be within their building and external areas and supervised by staff at all times'. As parents, we have been subjected to standing in the playground of a mainstream school bordering a SEN school and been first hand witnesses to the discriminative behaviour, which no child with a learning difficulty should be subjected to. This will not only affect their confidence but also enhance their anxiety and mental wellbeing. Whether there are staff present in the external areas such behaviour will still occur as it does in their current setting unnoticed by staff on duty. We know this such behaviours goes unnoticed as staff often have to access the CCTV data to get clarification on incidents.

- Meadow High School has recently been completely redeveloped and the current pupils are settled in this environment; why are we now being advised that it cannot accommodate our children? It has been stated that the Local Authority requires Meadow High School to increase their student capacity due to a lack of SEN secondary school places in the borough. If the SLT at Meadow, board of governors and the local authority feel that Meadow is not able to facilitate this within the current site, then why are the Local Authority not enforcing that the Northwood Road facility is a satellite site which is fully inclusive SEN facility for moderate learning disabilities with the same aims and values as the current Royal Lane site, rather than dividing the current pupils and in turn losing the school ethos and values.
  - During the informal presentations, we were advised that there were several options put on the table for review prior to the final decision of the relocation of Pathway 1 students. The one that has particularly struck a chord is that the Sixth Form were ruled out of being relocated and one of the deciding factors was that many of them are independent travellers and the journey to and from Harefield is not easily accessible. It has been said that Pathway 1 students are not expected to travel independently so are Meadow High School and the Local Authority confident that they are in a position to remove this right from these students? If it was going to be more difficult to achieve this at the current Royal Lane site, then it will be virtually impossible at the Northwood Road site. This is another clear discriminative decision.
  - The form received from Meadow High School regarding the proposed new site stated that 'We are considering altering the timing of the school day at Northwood Road to allow pupils greater access to activities previously offered as part of after-school clubs. This is a clear example of how the proposed site is not able to offer our children the same opportunities as in their current setting.
  - A letter received from the Headteacher of Meadow High School stated that it was not feasible to make a mirror site of the current provision at the Northwood Road site due to the number of specialist teachers and teaching spaces that would be provided. This is admitting that the specialist teachers will not be based at the new site. Our children were accepted at the Royal Lane site to access the same facilities as the rest of the pupils. This has further enhanced our concerns regarding our child's education which need to be addressed.
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- Should the London Borough of Hillingdon create a satellite site of the current Royal Lane site, incorporating pathways 1,2 and 3 then parents applying for their child's place at Meadow High School from September 2023 will be aware that there are two sites and choose which location is more suitable for their child. In turn, this would significantly reduce the transport financial implication for the local authority.
  - Meadow High School staff are regularly holding discussions with the pupils and whilst we appreciate that they may hear other people discussing the new site, we feel that they do not understand the impact that this proposal will have on their lives. To inform them that they will travel with their friends, have new classrooms, new sports hall, new bathrooms etc to them can sound exciting and is misleading and raising their hopes. We believe that these pupils have no real understanding of how they will no longer be interacting with the other pathways daily, the lengthy coach journey they will endure twice a day, and the impact this will have on their development.
  - "We promise to have an inclusive community, which values truth, diversity and mutual respect" is a statement promoted on the Meadow High School website. This is a promise that can no longer be kept as there will be no diversity or mutual respect. It is not a case of a school simply split across two sites, it will be a school split on ability and vulnerability. A stereotypical segregation that many of us parents hoped we would never be part of and never wanted our children to experience.
  - Being parents of children with a disability is challenging from the moment they take their first breath. A child with Down Syndrome is exceptionally challenging as it is a lifelong condition diagnosed at birth, unlike many other hidden disabilities such as autism. We encounter criticism, discrimination and judgement from other parents, professionals and members of society who are ignorant and do not understand our children's need. By attending their current setting, we know in our hearts that we are providing them with the best opportunity for them to go on to be accepted into society and lead an independent life to the best of their ability.
  - **COMPROMISE:** Should the proposal go ahead there has to be some form of compromise for existing students, parents who are choosing meadow high school from September 2022 will have knowledge of the school's plan for the future and the decision to send their child to Meadow knowing their child will be moved to Northwood Road September 2023 is their choice. Parents choosing Meadow from September 2023 will also be fully aware where their child will be educated and the type of setting it will be at Northwood Road, so again they will be choosing this for their child. The children already at Royal Lane pre-September 2022, the parents should have a choice on whether their child moves from September 2023 or whether their child remains at Royal Lane to the end of their education. The school should be asking parents what their choice is so that they can look at numbers and see how they can accommodate the Pathway 1 students whose parents are not in agreement to send their child to Northwood Road. Whether that means new temporary buildings for other Pathway students on the school field or "Site 2" at Royal Lane, but it needs to be addressed and the school need to support the parents and children already at the Royal Lane site.
  - **Community & Support:** Another point to consider, parents choose a school that is right for their child and where possible close to their home, by sending these children to Northwood Road site this will result in the likelihood of all students requiring transport, this in turn will
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result in parents losing contact and not meeting with other parents who are in similar (and different) situations as them where they would normally discuss, advise, recommend support and arrange out of school socialization etc in the school playground or in the vicinity of the school during pick up and drop off time. This loss will result in more isolation for both parents and children and thus affect their future development.

We would be grateful if you could address the above concerns with the relevant parties involved and respond at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

## **Email 2**

6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

### **Without prejudice**

#### **Re: Proposal of a satellite site of Meadow High School at the Harefield Boarding Block and increase in number of places.**

We are writing with regards to the above proposal and have detailed our concerns and objections below.

- Meadow High School is currently the only maintained SEN secondary school in the London Borough of Hillingdon that accommodates moderate learning difficulties. The remaining SEN secondary facilities within the London Borough of Hillingdon accommodate moderate to severe learning difficulties, some only accepting pupils with an ASD diagnosis. An application for our child to attend this facility was made knowing that it is the only SEN secondary school to cater for moderate learning difficulties and the inclusion policy as published on the school website. As parents, we felt it was the most inclusive, mixed ability school with peer groups from different pathways to interact with, thus developing a greater understanding of social skills to in turn allow them to be integrated into life in society after their education. If we had wanted our child to attend a setting for moderate need with no interaction with children with higher cognitive and/or social ability then we would have applied for another setting. By creating the proposed satellite site at Northwood Road, the choice to choose what we feel is in our child's best interest from both an education and health perspective is now being taken away from us.
  - The school and governing body have decided that the lowest ability and in turn the most vulnerable pupils of Meadow High School will be relocating to a new site at Northwood Road, Harefield from September 2023. This site is being portrayed as a bespoke facility for Pathway 1 pupils. As parents we feel that the lowest ability pupils are being segregated in the north of the borough, seven miles away from their current setting. Opening a satellite provision of this kind will not positively impact outcomes for this cohort of children. Meadow High Schools inclusion policy states "Making sure everyone can participate, whatever their background or circumstance". However, by relocating only Pathway 1
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pupils to the Northwood Road site, the school are not ensuring everyone can participate; instead, we appear to be regressing some thirty years whereby these children, especially those with a diagnosis of Down Syndrome were institutionalised and kept away from society.

- The proposal states that there will be more Pathway 1 pupils in year groups 7-14, but a smaller provision overall (max 90 compared to current 260). By reducing the number of pupils in the facility will significantly reduce their social interaction with other children, many of the children requiring social peers in order to progress with both their education and social abilities.
  - The proposal also states there will be additional facilities e.g., dedicated food tech room, horticultural garden, fitness room and outdoor gym, large therapy spaces and sensory room. The only additional facilities listed here are the sensory room, fitness room and outdoor gym. The children currently have the other facilities listed in their current setting. Only specific children within Pathway 1 will benefit from a sensory room. The provision of these two extra facilities does not make up for the fact of the loss of other facilities they currently access, such as after school clubs, enrichment afternoon on a Friday during which they interact with pupils from all Pathways and on-site therapists.
  - Meadow High Schools ethos of Discrimination states – “To promote equality and good relations and not discriminate on any grounds. Take appropriate action in any case of actual or potential discrimination”. The school are in fact enforcing the opposite by removing the ability for the Pathway 1 pupils to develop equality and good relations with the pupils on Pathways 2 & 3, the higher ability pupils. To not discriminate on any grounds would be to continue with a fully inclusive setting, mixing low ability Pathway 1 and high ability Pathway 2 & 3 students.
  - Meadow High Schools ethos of Cohesion states – “People from different backgrounds getting on well together (good community relations). There is a shared vision and sense of purpose or belonging. Diversity is valued. Relationships are strong, supportive, and sustainable. Cohesion is an outcome of equality and inclusion”. There will no longer be a sense of purpose or belonging as Pathway 1 children will potentially experience discrimination from within their own school and could be viewed as the ‘silly kids’ from Northwood Road, who weren’t able enough to remain at the Royal Lane site. To say such opinions do not exist is unrealistic and many parents of children with learning difficulties have experienced behaviour like this since our children were born and by moving Pathway 1 children to Harefield is enforcing this division.
  - In addition to their development delay, our children have various medical needs and at their current location they are in very close proximity to their local hospital and GP surgeries. The Northwood Road site is in close proximity to both Harefield Hospital and Mount Vernon Hospital, neither of which have an Accident & Emergency Department. Harefield Hospital is a Cardiology hospital and Mount Vernon has no paediatric facility.
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- Most of the administrative support will remain at Royal Lane (Finance / HR / attendance) with two reception-admin staff based full time at Northwood Road. They will have additional functions e.g. First Aid / consultation support / library etc. At the Royal Lane site Pathway 1 pupils are situated on the ground floor giving them easier access to the medical room, so where is the rationale in relocating them to a semi-rural location with no access to a Welfare Person or hospital facilities. The school and the LA have considered options to help families who do not drive, when they need to collect an unwell child from the new location. If these children are unwell, they need the reassurance and support of their parents/guardians and will not want to travel whilst unwell with school staff or school transport personnel.
  - The children's current hospital appointments are held at Hillingdon Hospital and it is not always possible to schedule these out of school hours. To be based at Northwood Road would increase their travel time to and from these hospital appointments, thus resulting in them losing more of their education time. It also puts added pressure on the parents who have to allow extra time for travelling, thus making some hospital appointments almost impossible due to work restrictions.
  - Stated within the proposal on the London Borough of Hillingdon website is that a greater number of children will be educated within their local area and will not lose community links by being placed a significant distance away from their homes. Multi-agency working and communication will be easier/better for these children and their families if they remain in a local placement and are able to access local services. How were these statistics calculated? As per the previous point, many of the children will be much further away from home with the exception of children living furthest north of the borough and children that currently access Meadow High School from outside of the borough.
  - Full details of the proposal on the London Brough of Hillingdon website states that 'The school community comes from the whole of Hillingdon and beyond. Many current Pathway 1 pupils live in the south of the borough and the site proposed is situated in the north of Hillingdon'. This contradicts the previous statement that 'a greater number of children will be educated within their local area'.
  - The working reality will be that apart from a few staff (Headteacher / Welfare Lead / Safeguarding Lead / Therapists / Office manager) the majority of staff will be allocated to one site or the other. It is reiterated here that the most vulnerable pupils (Pathway 1) will also not have access to on site Therapists. Is there to be a consultation to ascertain the percentage of children that access the therapists currently across the Pathways?
  - It has been suggested during the informal consultations held by Meadow High School that if certain Pathway 1 pupils mix well with Pathways 2 and 3 then they will be transported to Royal Lane from Northwood Road for some activities. This will subject these children to extra travelling during their school day when they have already travelled a long distance to school in the morning. This can only have a further detrimental effect on their learning as they are losing further education time. Due to their medical conditions, this will result in them being tired, thus affecting their concentration. We have been advised that it would
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be for a specific lesson or activity and not for the complete school day as stated within your proposal.

- The majority of the pupils would now have to access school transport for them to get to and from school. The increased travel time will cause greater pressure on their medical conditions and result in them arriving at school tired, thus resulting in poor concentration and lack of learning.
  - The Northwood Road site will be adjacent to Harefield Academy, separated by either a fence or brick wall boundary (subject to planning proposals). The full proposal online states 'the impact on pupils at the Harefield Academy will be minimal as the proposed new satellite is at the edge of the site, away from the academy building and sports areas and will use a separate entrance from Northwood Road'. This is false information as during the informal presentations we have been informed that there will be a wire fence separating the Harefield Academy tennis court area from the new Meadow High School site MUGA (Multi- use games area) and it is anticipated that the pupils from both schools will exchange positive communication/relationships. In our personal opinion and from information obtained first hand from some of the current students at Harefield Academy, it is known that Harefield Academy has a reputation of anti-social behaviour and bullying and is generally a hostile, volatile environment. We are fully aware that Harefield Academy has now obtained a Good Ofsted rating, however that does not change the 'make up' of pupils that attend the facility. We are being expected to place our children, the most vulnerable pupils from Meadow High School in close proximity to this environment. The proposal states that 'due to the pupil's high level of needs, they will be within their building and external areas and supervised by staff at all times'. As parents, we have been subjected to standing in the playground of a mainstream school bordering a SEN school and been first hand witnesses to the discriminative behaviour, which no child with a learning difficulty should be subjected to. This will not only affect their confidence but also enhance their anxiety and mental wellbeing. Whether there are staff present in the external areas such behaviour will still occur as it does in their current setting unnoticed by staff on duty. We know that such behaviour goes unnoticed as staff often have to access the CCTV data to get clarification on incidents.
  - Meadow High School has recently been completely redeveloped and the current pupils are settled in this environment; why are we now being advised that it cannot accommodate our children? It has been stated that the Local Authority requires Meadow High School to increase their student capacity due to a lack of SEN secondary school places in the borough. If the SLT at Meadow, board of governors and the local authority feel that Meadow High School is not able to facilitate this within the current site, then why are the Local Authority not enforcing that the Northwood Road facility is a satellite site which is fully inclusive SEN facility for moderate learning disabilities with the same aims and values as the current Royal Lane site, rather than dividing the current pupils and in turn losing the school ethos and values.
  - During the informal presentations, we were advised that there were several options put on the table for review prior to the final decision of the relocation of Pathway 1 students. The one that has particularly struck a chord is that the Sixth Form were ruled out of being
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relocated and one of the deciding factors was that many of them are independent travellers and the journey to and from Harefield is not easily accessible. It has been said that Pathway 1 students are not expected to travel independently so are Meadow High School and the Local Authority confident that they are in a position to remove this right from these students? If it was going to be more difficult to achieve this at the current Royal Lane site, then it will be virtually impossible at the Northwood Road site. This is another clear discriminative decision.

- The form received from Meadow High School regarding the proposed new site stated that 'We are considering altering the timing of the school day at Northwood Road to allow pupils greater access to activities previously offered as part of after-school clubs. This is a clear example of how the proposed site is not able to offer our children the same opportunities as in their current setting.
  - A letter received from the Headteacher of Meadow High School stated that it was not feasible to make a mirror site of the current provision at the Northwood Road site due to the number of specialist teachers and teaching spaces that would be provided. This is admitting that the specialist teachers will not be based at the new site. Our children were accepted at the Royal Lane site to access the same facilities as the rest of the pupils. This has further enhanced our concerns regarding our child's education which need to be addressed.
  - Should the London Borough of Hillingdon create a satellite site of the current Royal Lane site, incorporating pathways 1,2 and 3 then parents applying for their child's place at Meadow High School from September 2023 will be aware that there are two sites and will have the option to select which location is more suitable for their child. In turn, this would significantly reduce the transport financial implication for the local authority.
  - Meadow High School staff are regularly holding discussions with the pupils and whilst we appreciate that they may hear other people discussing the new site, we feel that they do not understand the impact that this proposal will have on their lives. To inform them that they will travel with their friends, have new classrooms, new sports hall, new bathrooms etc to them can sound exciting and is misleading and raising their hopes. We believe that these pupils have no real understanding of how they will no longer be interacting with the other pathways daily, the lengthy coach journey they will endure twice a day, and the impact this will have on their development.
  - "We promise to have an inclusive community, which values truth, diversity and mutual respect" is a statement promoted on the Meadow High School website. This is a promise that can no longer be kept as there will be no diversity or mutual respect. It is not a case of a school simply split across two sites, it will be a school split on ability and vulnerability. A stereotypical segregation that many of us parents hoped we would never be part of and never wanted our children to experience.
  - Being parents of a child with a disability is challenging from the moment they take their first breath. A child with Down Syndrome is exceptionally challenging as it is a lifelong
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condition diagnosed at birth, unlike many other hidden disabilities such as autism. We encounter criticism, discrimination and judgement from other parents, professionals and members of society who are ignorant and do not understand our child's need. By attending their current setting, we know in our hearts that we are providing them with the best opportunity for them to go on to be accepted into society and lead an independent life to the best of their ability.

We would be grateful if you could address the above concerns with the relevant parties involved and respond at your earliest convenience.

## **Response from the LA and school to the points made via email**

- Meadow High School is currently the only maintained SEN secondary school in the London Borough of Hillingdon that accommodates moderate learning difficulties. The remaining SEN secondary facilities within the London Borough of Hillingdon accommodate moderate to severe learning difficulties, some only accepting pupils with an ASD diagnosis. An application for our child to attend this facility was made knowing that it is the only SEN secondary school to cater for moderate learning difficulties and the inclusion policy as published on the school website. As parents, we felt it was the most inclusive, mixed ability school with peer groups from different pathways to interact with, thus developing a greater understanding of social skills to in turn allow them to be integrated into life in society after their education. If we had wanted our child to attend a setting for moderate need with no interaction with children with higher cognitive and/or social ability, then we could have applied for another setting. By creating the proposed satellite site at Northwood Road, the choice to choose what we feel is in our child's best interest from both an education and health perspective is now potentially being taken away from us.

**LA/ School Response:** The matter of choice is of course extremely difficult for parents whose child requires a SEND setting. The school have offered to support families with the move to Northwood Road or with a placement review. The issue regarding health is that Meadow High School is located next to Hillingdon Hospital. it is of course extremely convenient if that is the hospital you are under. The vast majority of our pupils with complex medical conditions are under GOSH so this change is making no difference to them.

- The school and governing body have decided that the lowest ability and in turn the most vulnerable pupils of Meadow High School will be relocating to a new site at Northwood Road, Harefield from September 2023. This site is being portrayed as a bespoke facility for Pathway 1 pupils. As parents we feel that the lowest ability pupils are being segregated in the North of the borough, seven miles away from their current setting. Opening a satellite provision of this kind will not positively impact outcomes for this cohort of children. Meadow High Schools inclusion policy states "Making sure everyone can participate, whatever their background or circumstance". However, by relocating only Pathway 1 pupils to the Northwood Road site, the school are not ensuring everyone can participate; instead, we appear to be regressing some thirty years whereby these children, especially those with a diagnosis of Down Syndrome were institutionalised and kept away from society.
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**LA/ School Response:** This move is not about segregation. The school have explained that it is to create additional capacity in the school for LBH. The school did consider moving the 6th form but due to the number of independent travellers and the number of staff who work in both the 6th form and the rest of the school, this is not possible. The decision has nothing to do with ability. This is a vulnerable group but in many ways not as vulnerable as our pupils who do not have a visible disability and are independent travellers. This is not an 'institution' but part of our provision. As the lady from the Down Syndrome association said when she emailed me about this "We at the Down's Syndrome Association (DSA) understand that sometimes, necessary changes need to be made to schools."

- The proposal states that there will be more Pathway 1 pupils in year groups 7-14, but a smaller provision overall (max 90 compared to current 260). By reducing the number of pupils in the facility will significantly reduce their social interaction with other children, many of the children requiring social peers in order to progress with both their education and social abilities.

**LA/ School Response:** Most of Pathway 1 pupils choose not to interact with pupils in other Pathways as they enjoy playing with their friends. The school states the opposite is true about social peers as this CYP is at the lower end of Pathway 1 and has many good social peers to interact with and learn from in Pathway 1 as opposed to some of the challenging behaviours our Pathway 2/3 pupils exhibit that would not be appropriate to learn. This is an appropriate social peer group.

- The proposal also states there will be additional facilities e.g., dedicated food tech room, horticultural garden, fitness room and outdoor gym, large therapy spaces, sensory room. The only additional facility listed here is the sensory room, fitness room and outdoor gym. The children currently have the other facilities listed in their current setting. Only specific children within Pathway 1 will benefit from a sensory room. The provision of these two extra facilities does not make up for the fact of the loss of other facilities they currently access, such as after school clubs, enrichment afternoon on a Friday during which they interact with pupils from all Pathway and on-site Therapists.

**LA/ School Response:** There will still be after school clubs and enrichment offered, although these will of course only be for Pathway 1 pupils. There will be on-site therapists.

- Meadow High Schools ethos of Discrimination states – "To promote equality and good relations and not discriminate on any grounds. Take appropriate action in any case of actual or potential discrimination". The school are in fact enforcing the opposite by removing the ability for the Pathway 1 pupils to develop equality and good relations with the pupils on Pathways 2 & 3, the higher ability pupils. To not discriminate on any grounds would be to continue with a fully inclusive setting, mixing low ability Pathway 1 and high ability Pathways 2 & 3 students.

**LA/ School Response:** The school is not discriminating against any group of pupils. The school have met with the mother of this CYP, but the ideal option of two mirror

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sites (all Pathways) was impossible given the size of the Northwood Road facility. It will be a completely appropriate setting for this child.

- Meadow High Schools ethos of Cohesion states – “People from different backgrounds getting on well together (good community relations). There is a shared vision and sense of purpose or belonging. Diversity is valued. Relationships are strong, supportive, and sustainable. Cohesion is an outcome of equality and inclusion”. There will no longer be a sense of purpose or belonging as Pathway 1 children will potentially experience discrimination from within their own school and could be viewed as the ‘silly kids’ from Northwood Road, who weren’t able enough to remain at the Royal Lane site. To say such opinions do not exist is unrealistic and many parents of children with learning difficulties have experienced behaviour like this since our children were born and by moving Pathway 1 children to Harefield is enforcing this division.

**LA/ School Response:** As stated above, the decision for this cohort to be the one moving to Northwood Road is not based on ability.

- In addition to their development delay, our children have various medical needs and at their current location they are in very close proximity to their local hospital and GP surgeries. The Northwood Road site is in close proximity to both Harefield Hospital and Mount Vernon Hospital, neither of which have an Accident & Emergency Department. Harefield Hospital is a Cardiology hospital and Mount Vernon has no paediatric facility.

**LA/ School Response:** As above

- Most of the administrative support will remain at Royal Lane (Finance / HR / attendance) with two reception-admin staff based full time at Northwood Road. They will have additional functions e.g. First Aid / consultation support / library etc. At the Royal Lane site Pathway 1 pupils are situated on the ground floor giving them easier access to the medical room, so where is the rationale in relocating them to a semi-rural location with no access to a Welfare Person or hospital facilities. The school and the LA have considered options to help families who do not drive, when they need to collect an unwell child from the new location. If these children are unwell, they need the reassurance and support of their parents/guardians and will not want to travel whilst unwell with school staff or school transport personnel.

**LA/ School Response:** The school are not proposing to transport ill children, rather planning to support families who do not drive to help them to transport their ill child other than on public transport. Parents who drive would be expected to pick up their child. The provision will not need a welfare person as the form teams are sufficient to support a child should they be ill. This is alongside the first aid at work trained team who are available for pupils who have accidents or become seriously ill.

- The children’s current hospital appointments are held at Hillingdon Hospital, and it is not always possible to schedule these out of school hours. To be based at Northwood Road would increase their travel time to and from these hospital appointments, thus resulting in them losing more of their education time. It also puts added pressure on the parents who have to allow extra time for travelling, thus making some hospital appointments almost impossible due to work restrictions.
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**LA/ School Response:** That is correct. Inevitably some parents of current pupils live and work very near the school so this will potentially significantly alter their arrangements. However other parents live further away, such as in Harefield. The School and LA appreciate that the move creates anxiety for some existing pupils and parents and will continue to work with them to support a successful transition.

- Stated on the proposal on the London Borough of Hillingdon website is that a greater number of children will be educated within their local area and will not lose community links by being placed a significant distance away from their homes. Multi-agency working and communication will be easier/better for these children and their families if they remain in a local placement and are able to access local services. How were these statistics calculated? As per the above paragraph, many of the children will be much further away from home with the exception of children living furthest north of the borough and children that currently access Meadow High School from out of the borough.

**LA/ School Response:** Some parents have not appreciated the number of other children who have out of borough placements which are significantly further away than the change that may happen for some of the Pathway 1 pupils.

- Full details of the proposal on the London Borough of Hillingdon website states that 'The school community comes from the whole of Hillingdon and beyond. Many current Pathway 1 pupils live in the south of the borough and the site proposed is situated in the north of Hillingdon'. This contradicts the above statement that 'a greater number of children will be educated within their local area'.

**LA/ School Response:** As above

- The working reality will be that apart from a few staff (Headteacher / Welfare Lead / Safeguarding Lead / Therapists / Office manager) the majority of staff will be allocated to one site or the other. It is reiterated here that the most vulnerable pupils (Pathway 1) will also not have access to on site Therapists. Is there to be a consultation to ascertain the percentage of children that access the therapists currently across the Pathways?

**LA/ School Response:** As stated above, the therapy team will work across both sites and there will be someone on site at all times (apart from Physio which is shared and two people are not necessary)

- It has been suggested during the informal consultations held by Meadow High School that if certain Pathway 1 pupils mix well with Pathways 2 and 3 then they will be brought over from Northwood Road for some activities. This will subject these children to extra travelling during their school day when they have already travelled a long distance to school in the morning. This can only have a further detrimental effect on their learning as they are losing further education time. Due to their medical conditions, this will result in them being tired, thus affecting their concentration. We have been advised that it would be for a specific lesson or activity and not for the complete school day as stated within your proposal.
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**LA/ School Response:** There are currently two pupils this would affect, and we are confident of the benefit. We are able to make adjustments to their day to accommodate travel time etc. This is no different to pupils currently having to attend all PE off site due to our building work.

- The majority of the pupils would now have to access school transport for them to get to and from school. The increased travel time will cause greater pressure on their medical conditions and result in them arriving at school tired, thus resulting in poor concentration and lack of learning.

**LA/ School Response:** The school do not believe this to be the case.

- The Northwood Road site will be adjacent to Harefield Academy, separated by either a fence or brick wall boundary (subject to planning proposals). The full proposal online states 'the impact on pupils at the Harefield Academy will be minimal as the proposed new satellite is at the edge of the site, away from the academy building and sports areas and will use a separate entrance from Northwood Road'. The proposal states that 'due to the pupil's high level of needs, they will be within their building and external areas and supervised by staff at all times'. As parents, we have been subjected to standing in the playground of a mainstream school bordering a SEN school and been first hand witnesses to the discriminative behaviour, which no child with a learning difficulty should be subjected to. This will not only affect their confidence but also enhance their anxiety and mental wellbeing. Whether there are staff present in the external areas such behaviour will still occur as it does in their current setting unnoticed by staff on duty. We know this such behaviours goes unnoticed as staff often have to access the CCTV data to get clarification on incidents.

**LA/ School Response:** These fears will not be possible in practice. As well as the fence boundary described and shown on the plans, there will be totally separate pedestrian and minibus entrances to the Meadow site. The only interaction between pupils of both schools will be structured, planned and managed to add a positive experience of inclusion.

- Meadow High School has recently been completely redeveloped and the current pupils are settled in this environment; why are we now being advised that it cannot accommodate our children? It has been stated that the Local Authority requires Meadow High School to increase their student capacity due to a lack of SEN secondary school places in the borough. If the SLT at Meadow, board of governors and the local authority feel that Meadow is not able to facilitate this within the current site, then why are the Local Authority not enforcing that the Northwood Road facility is a satellite site which is fully inclusive SEN facility for moderate learning disabilities with the same aims and values as the current Royal Lane site, rather than dividing the current pupils and in turn losing the school ethos and values.

**LA/ School Response:** As above and discussed with individual parents.

- During the informal presentations, we were advised that there were several options put on the table for review prior to the final decision of the relocation of Pathway 1 students. The one that has particularly struck a chord is that the Sixth Form were ruled out of being relocated and one of the deciding factors was that many of them are independent travellers and the
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journey to and from Harefield is not easily accessible. It has been said that Pathway 1 students are not expected to travel independently so are Meadow High School and the Local Authority confident that they are in a position to remove this right from these students? If it was going to be more difficult to achieve this at the current Royal Lane site, then it will be virtually impossible at the Northwood Road site. This is another clear discriminative decision.

**LA/ School Response:** No pupil will be prevented from learning independent travel skills however it is correct that they are unlikely to be able to complete the journey to Northwood Road independently, apart from those who live close by. In the school's experience, very few Pathway 1 pupils become independent travellers during their time at school but this is a core aspect of our work and an aspiration for all pupils, whichever Pathway they are in.

- The form received from Meadow High School regarding the proposed new site stated that 'We are considering altering the timing of the school day at Northwood Road to allow pupils greater access to activities previously offered as part of after-school clubs. This is a clear example of how the proposed site is not able to offer our children the same opportunities as in their current setting.

**LA/ School Response:** That is correct, the school is trying to create a better model.

- A letter received from the Headteacher of Meadow High School stated that it was not feasible to make a mirror site of the current provision at the Northwood Road site due to the number of specialist teachers and teaching spaces that would be provided. This is admitting that the specialist teachers will not be based at the new site. Our children were accepted at the Royal Lane site to access the same facilities as the rest of the pupils. This has further enhanced our concerns regarding our child's education which need to be addressed.

**LA/ School Response:** Pathway 1 pupils are not currently taught by these specialist subject staff. This is not a change.

- Should the London Borough of Hillingdon create a satellite site of the current Royal Lane site, incorporating pathways 1,2 and 3 then parents applying for their child's place at Meadow High School from September 2023 will be aware that there are two sites and choose which location is more suitable for their child. In turn, this would significantly reduce the transport financial implication for the local authority.
  - Meadow High School staff are regularly holding discussions with the pupils and whilst we appreciate that they may hear other people discussing the new site, we feel that they do not understand the impact that this proposal will have on their lives. To inform them that they will travel with their friends, have new classrooms, new sports hall, new bathrooms etc to them can sound exciting and is misleading and raising their hopes. We believe that these pupils have no real understanding of how they will no longer be interacting with the other pathways daily, the lengthy coach journey they will endure twice a day, and the impact this will have on their development.
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**LA/ School Response:** As an inclusive school, Meadow High School staff do talk to the pupils (all Pathways are involved). They will not understand all the things that impact on their families, they are more concerned about what their day to day experience will be.

- “We promise to have an inclusive community, which values truth, diversity and mutual respect” is a statement promoted on the Meadow High School website. This is a promise that can no longer be kept as there will be no diversity or mutual respect. It is not a case of a school simply split across two sites, it will be a school split on ability and vulnerability. A stereotypical segregation that many of us parents hoped we would never be part of and never wanted our children to experience.
- Being parents of children with a disability is challenging from the moment they take their first breath. A child with Down Syndrome is exceptionally challenging as it is a lifelong condition diagnosed at birth, unlike many other hidden disabilities such as autism. We encounter criticism, discrimination and judgement from other parents, professionals and members of society who are ignorant and do not understand our children’s need. By attending their current setting, we know in our hearts that we are providing them with the best opportunity for them to go on to be accepted into society and lead an independent life to the best of their ability.

**LA/ School Response:** As discussed with parents in person, life is no less challenging for people with hidden disabilities or those who do not have a clear diagnosis from birth. The school do not agree that life is more challenging for a person with Down Syndrome than many of the other pupils.

- **COMPROMISE:** Should the proposal go ahead there has to be some form of compromise for existing students, parents who are choosing meadow high school from September 2022 will have knowledge of the school’s plan for the future and the decision to send their child to Meadow knowing their child will be moved to Northwood Road September 2023 is their choice. Parents choosing Meadow from September 2023 will also be fully aware where their child will be educated and the type of setting it will be at Northwood Road, so again they will be choosing this for their child. The children already at Royal Lane pre-September 2022, the parents should have a choice on whether their child moves from September 2023 or whether their child remains at Royal Lane to the end of their education. The school should be asking parents what their choice is so that they can look at numbers and see how they can accommodate the Pathway 1 students whose parents are not in agreement to send their child to Northwood Road. Whether that means new temporary buildings for other Pathway students on the school field or “Site 2” at Royal Lane, but it needs to be addressed and the school need to support the parents and children already at the Royal Lane site.

**LA/ School Response:** This is not feasible for the school.

- **Community & Support:** Another point to consider, parents choose a school that is right for their child and where possible close to their home, by sending these children to Northwood Road site this will result in the likelihood of all students requiring transport, this in turn will result in parents losing contact and not meeting with other parents who are in similar (and different) situations as them where they would normally discuss, advise, recommend support
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and arrange out of school socialization etc in the school playground or in the vicinity of the school during pick up and drop off time. This loss will result in more isolation for both parents and children and thus affect their future development.

**LA/ School Response:** The vast majority of Pathway 1 pupils are currently transported so the only families to be affected will be the few who currently transport their child to school. The school are happy to develop more opportunities for families to network.

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